

Key facts and statistics

2025

Updated 10 July 2025

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UK facts and statistics

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Looking to the future by nation

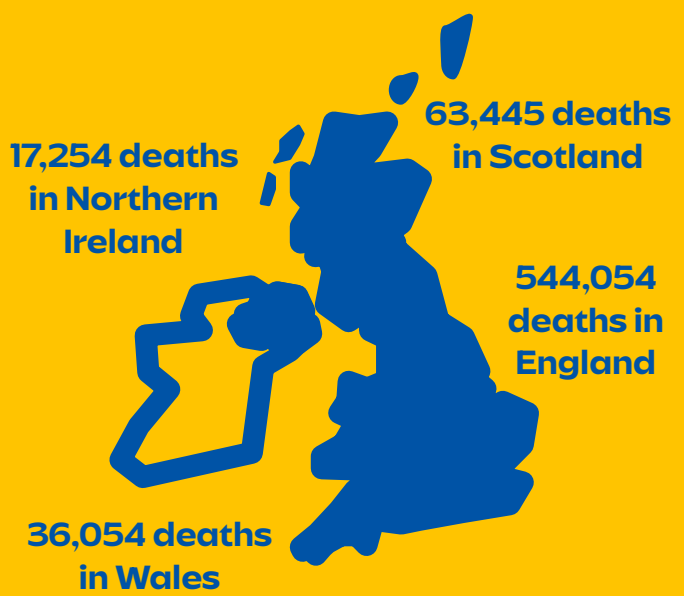
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Visit the [Evidence Hub](#) for more detailed statistics and evidence on key subjects.



Every 5 minutes,
6 people die in the UK.¹



660,807 people died
in the UK in 2023.¹



9 in 10 people
dying in the UK today
need palliative care.²

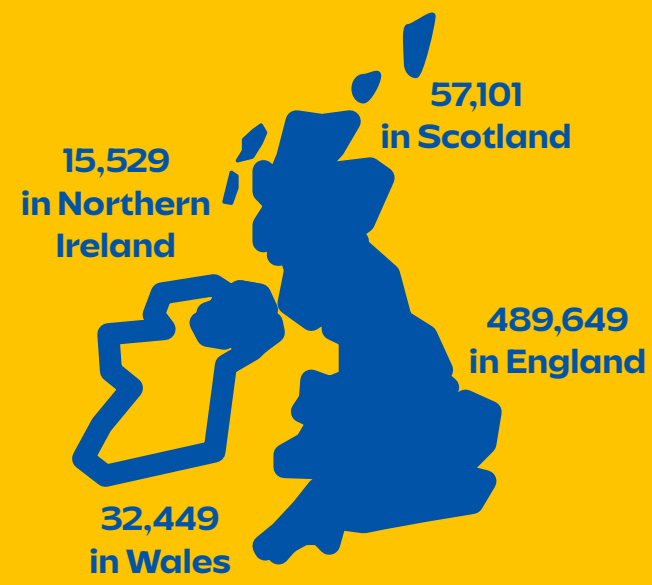


111,000 people die
in poverty every
year in the UK.³



More than 300 people die in
poverty in the UK every day.³

Number of deaths that
would benefit from
palliative care by nation:^{1, 2}



Note: Includes those that do receive palliative care (not a figure for unmet need).



Up to 760,000 people in the UK are caring for someone at the end of their life, including 180,000 people caring for someone in their own home.⁴



Over 40% of UK adults bereaved between 2016 and 2022 couldn't get the expert bereavement support they wanted.⁵



Marie Curie is the UK's largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life care research.⁶

For more statistics about Marie Curie services and impact, see our [Annual Report](#).

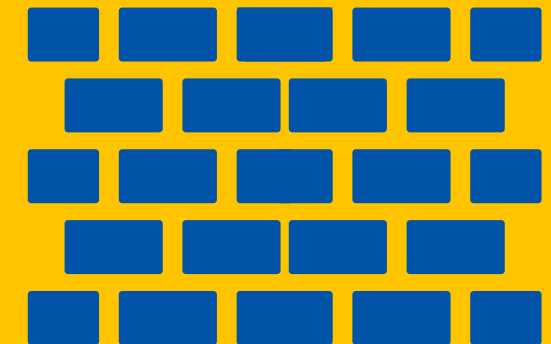




1 in 4 people don't get the end of life care and support they need.⁷ That's around 150,000 people every year.^{1,2}



Every 5 minutes someone in the UK dies without the care and support they need.^{1,2}



Some groups are more likely to experience barriers to accessing the right end of life care.⁸

including: people living in rural or deprived areas; minoritised ethnic communities; people with learning disabilities;⁹ imprisoned people; people experiencing homelessness; and LGBTQ+ communities.¹⁰

Marie Curie research findings

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Recent Marie Curie research has found that...



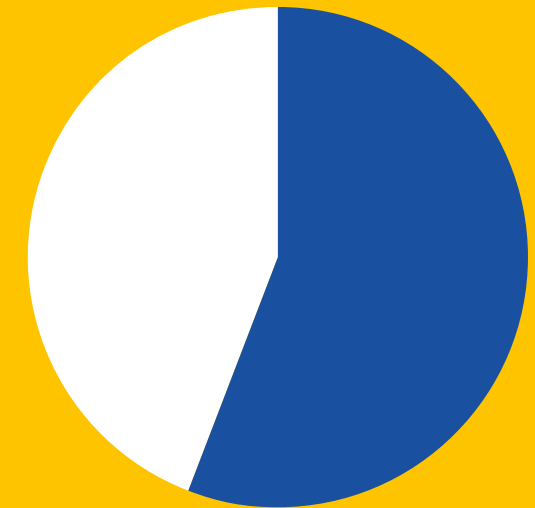
One in three people were severely or overwhelmingly affected by pain in their final week of life.¹¹

Note: You must contact the [England Policy team](#) before using this statistic to ensure use is consistent with current context and organisational position.



One in five people had no contact with a GP in the last three months of life.¹¹

Note: You must contact the [England Policy team](#) before using this statistic to ensure use is consistent with current context and organisational position.



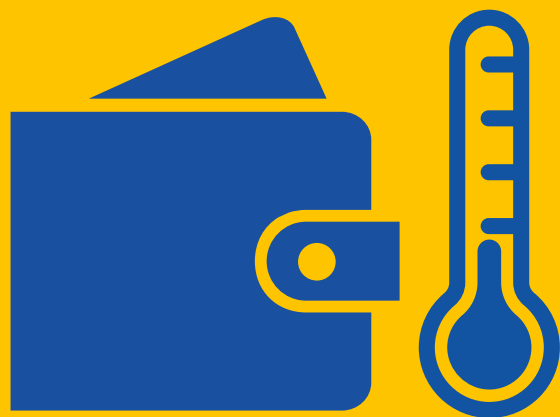
More than half of people (56%) would prefer to die at home.¹²

Marie Curie research findings

Recent Marie Curie research has found that...



The top three priorities for people thinking about their last year of life were being free of pain and other symptoms (36%), being able to maintain dignity and self-respect (31%) and being surrounded by loved ones (29%).¹²



128,000 people die in fuel poverty every year.³



Over 80% of the public money spent on healthcare in the final year of life was spent on hospital care.¹³



UK governments spent five times as much on supporting people in the final year of life as hospital inpatients, as supporting them with primary care, community health and hospice care.^{*13}

*excluding NHS hospice services

Looking to the future

The need for palliative care is growing in the UK. Our ageing society means more people will be living for longer, with multiple complex health conditions. So more people will need palliative care as they are dying.



By 2035, 7 people will die every 5 minutes (almost 735,000 people).

That's almost 71,000 more people dying every year compared to 2025.*



By 2050, 8 people will die every 5 minutes (over 825,000 people).

That's over 160,000 more people dying every year compared to 2025.*



Two thirds of people over 65 will be living with multiple health conditions by 2035.¹⁵



By 2035, the need for end of life care will rise by 10% compared to 2025. Over 60,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035, the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in the UK will rise by more than 60,000, to over 660,000 people per year.*



By 2050, the need for end of life care will rise by almost 25% compared to 2025. Over 147,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050, the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in the UK will rise by more than 147,000 to over 745,000 people per year.*



In 2035, over 600,000 people will die every year in England. That's almost 60,000 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in England will rise by over 10% compared to 2025. Almost 54,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in England will rise by almost 54,000 to over 545,000 people per year.*



In 2050, over 685,000 people will die every year in England. That's 138,000 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in England will rise by 25% compared to 2025. Over 120,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in England will rise by more than 120,000 to over 610,000 people per year.*



In 2035, almost 20,000 people will die every year in Northern Ireland. That's over 2,400 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by almost 14% compared to 2025. Over 2,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by more than 2,000 to over 17,800 people per year.*



In 2050, over 23,000 people will die every year in Northern Ireland. That's over 5,500 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by over 30% compared to 2025. Over 5,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by more than 5,000 to 20,800 people per year.*



In 2035, over 68,000 people will die each year in Scotland. That's over 4,500 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Scotland will rise by 7% compared to 2025. Over 4,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Scotland will rise by more than 4,000 to over 61,000 people per year.*



In 2050, over 75,000 people will die every year in Scotland. That's over 12,000 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Scotland will rise by almost 20% compared to 2025. Almost 11,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Scotland will rise by almost 11,000 to 68,000 people per year.*



In 2035, over 39,000 people will die each year in Wales. That's over 3,700 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Wales will rise by 10% compared to 2025. Over 3,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Wales will rise by more than 3,000 to over 35,000 people per year.*



In 2050, over 43,000 people will die every year in Wales. That's 7,800 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Wales will rise by 21% compared to 2025. Over 7,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Wales will rise by more than 7,000 to 39,000 people per year.*

1. Marie Curie calculation using figures for England and Wales: [Deaths registered summary statistics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
Scotland: webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20240926182501/https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/vital-events-reference-tables/2023
Northern Ireland: nisra.gov.uk/publications/registrar-general-annual-report-2023-deaths
2. Fantoni, E.R., Wynne, N. & Finucane, A.M. Estimates of population level palliative care need in the UK: a descriptive analysis of mortality data before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. BMC Palliative Care 2024; 23(271). [doi:10.1186/s12904-024-01574-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-024-01574-5)
3. Marie Curie, [Dying in Poverty 2024](#): Exploring poverty and fuel poverty at the end of life in the UK. 2024
4. Gardiner et al., 2024 [Exploring the financial and employment impacts of end of life unpaid caregiving in the UK: Executive summary](#)
5. [UK Bereavement Commission Summary Report, 2022](#)
6. UK Health Research Analysis 2022 (UK Clinical Research Collaboration, 2023) <https://hrcsonline.net/reports/analysisreports/uk-health-research-analysis-2022/>
7. Marie Curie calculation using Funding the right care and support for everyone - [Palliative Care Funding review](#)
8. Hudson, B.F., Taylor, F., Jones, R., et al Intersectionality factors and equitable end-of-life experiences: rapid review. BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care. 2024;14:e2438-e2445. [doi:10.1136/spcare-2023-004658](https://doi.org/10.1136/spcare-2023-004658)
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11. Johansson, T., et al., Better End of Life 2024. Time to care: Findings from a nationally representative survey of experiences at the end of life in England and Wales. [Research Report, 2024](#), Marie Curie
12. Goss et al., 2024 Public attitudes to death, dying and bereavement in the UK re-visited: 2023 survey. [Research report](#). London (UK): Marie Curie.
13. Cummins et al. 2025, Public expenditure in the last year of life [Research report](#). London (UK): Marie Curie.
14. Marie Curie, Method for Marie Curie estimation of deaths and future need for palliative care in 10 and 25 years, 2025. [Briefing](#).
15. Kingston et al., Projections of multi-morbidity in the older population in England to 2035: estimates from the Population Ageing and Care Simulation (PACSim) model, Age and Ageing. 2018; 47(3):374-380, [doi:10.1093/ageing/afx201](https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afx201)

Other useful links

Visit the [Evidence Hub](#) for more detailed statistics and evidence on key subjects

Brand guidance

[Brand guidelines](#)

[Story Hub](#)

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[Research team](#)

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For volunteers

If you would like information from any of these links, please contact your Volunteer Manager or email volunteeringcommunications@mariecurie.org.uk so we can send the relevant resources and support you in accessing the information you need.